



Shown is a Philadelphia police car with flashing lights in Philadelphia, Monday, Jan. 17, 2022.

Associated Press
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Police officer hiring in U.S. increases in 2023 after years of decline, survey shows

By CLAUDIA LAUER
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Police departments across the United States are reporting an increase in their ranks for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 killing of George Floyd, which led to a historic exodus of officers, a survey shows. More sworn officers were hired in 2023

than in any one of the previous four years, and fewer officers overall resigned or retired, according to the 214 law enforcement agencies that responded to a survey by the Police Executive Research Forum, or PERF. Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police officers spurred nationwide protests against police brutality and heightened scrutiny of

law enforcement. As more and more officers left, many of the departments had to redeploy stretched resources by shifting officers away from investigative work or quality of life issues such as abandoned vehicles or noise violations to handle increases in crime and, in some cases, the shortages meant slower response times or limiting responses to emergencies only,

police officials say.

"I just think that the past four years have been particularly challenging for American policing," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of PERF, a nonprofit policing think tank based in Washington, D.C. "And our survey shows we're finally starting to turn a corner."

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TASTE OF ARUBA
Every Wednesday with LOCAL
Food and Live show

TGI Fridays


The Hot Box


Sexy Shrimps


Che Bar


Drunk's Denial


Live on stage


Criollo Shrimp

Fried Funchi

Shrimp Pastechi

Aruba Ariba

Cashew Cake

Cultural Show at 8pm

Located in Palm Beach, across the Holiday Inn hotel

Police officer hiring in U.S. increases in 2023 after years of decline, survey shows

Continued from Front

Individual departments are turning that corner at different rates, however, according to Wexler, who noted many are still struggling to attract and keep officers.

As a whole, the profession "isn't out of the woods yet," he said.

The Associated Press left phone and email messages with several unions and police departments to ask about increased hiring.

The survey shows that while small and medium departments had more sworn officers than they did in January 2020, large departments are still more than 5% below their staffing levels from that time, even with a year-over-year increase from 2022 to 2023.

The survey also showed smaller departments with fewer than 50 officers are still struggling with a higher rate of resignations and retirements.

The survey asked only for numbers, Wexler said, so it's hard to say whether those officers are leaving for larger departments or leaving the profession altogether. He also said smaller departments, which account for 80% of agencies nationwide, were underrepresented in the responses PERF received.

Many larger departments have increased officer pay



Police tape cordons off the scene of a crime in Levittown, Pa., Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Associated Press

or started offering incentives such as signing bonuses for experienced officers who are willing to transfer, something smaller departments can't really compete with. At least a dozen smaller departments have disbanded, leaving the municipalities they once served to rely on state or county help for policing. But even some of the highest-paying large departments are still struggling to get new hires in the door.

"I don't think it's all about money. I think it's about the way people perceive their job and feel they are going to be supported," Wexler said. "You have West Coast departments that are paying six figures, but still seeing major challenges in hiring." In addition to pay and bonuses, many agencies are

reexamining their application requirements and hiring processes.

Wexler believes some of those changes make sense, including allowing visible tattoos, reweighing the importance of past financial issues and processing applicants' background checks faster. But he cautioned that PERF does not support lowering standards for training or for applicants. Maria "Maki" Haberfeld, chair of the Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, says departments have been too focused on officer numbers. She worries some are lowering education requirements and other standards to bolster numbers instead of trying to find

the best people to police their communities.

"Policing is a real profession that requires more skills and more education than people can understand," she said. "It's not about tattoos or running a mile in 15 minutes. It's really more about emotional intelligence, maturity and making those split-second decisions that don't use deadly force." Haberfeld also cautioned that any staffing gains made through incentives could easily be erased, especially as officers, including some in riot gear, have been seen breaking up protests against the Israel-Hamas war at universities across the country.

"In policing, it takes decades to move forward and a split second for the public attitude to deteriorate," she

said.

PERF's survey showed a more than a 20% drop in resignations overall, from a high of almost 6,500 in 2022 to fewer than 5,100 in 2023. They are still up over early pandemic levels in 2020, however, when a few more than 4,000 officers resigned across all responding departments.

As with the hiring increases, the rate of decrease in retirements tended to depend on the size of the departments. There were fewer retirements in 2023 than in 2019 at large departments, slightly more retirements at medium departments and elevated retirements at small departments. The survey found a steep drop in resignations at large agencies with 250 or more officers and medium-size agencies with between 50 and 249 officers. In addition to pay and benefit increases, the improved retention can be partly attributed to a shift in how some public officials view their public safety departments, Wexler says.

"We went from having public discourse about defunding the police just a few years ago to public officials waking up to the fact their workforce is leaving," he said. "I don't think there's any question that there has been a sea change among political leaders." □



Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo attends a trilateral meeting with President Joe Biden, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Commerce Department on

Friday announced new restrictions on U.S. firearms exports

Commerce Department announces new restrictions on U.S. firearms exports

in an effort to prevent the guns from ending up in the hands of drug traffickers and criminals in other nations. Oversight of legal firearms exports has become a political struggle in Washington since the Trump administration in 2020 moved oversight from the State Department to the Commerce Department — a move that was widely seen as favorable to the firearms industry. President Joe Biden during his 2020 campaign pledged to reverse the move

"if needed." Some Democratic lawmakers in Congress have since scrutinized the rate of approvals for gun exports, including semi-automatic guns, saying they lead to violence and unrest around the world. The Commerce Department in October put a freeze on gun exports, which was criticized by the National Rifle Association as well as Republican lawmakers. On Friday, the Commerce Department said it would lift the hold on exports starting May 30, but

with new rules and tougher review standards.

The changes include denying most export licenses to commercial entities in 36 countries that are determined by State Department criteria to be high-risk locations for illegal gun trafficking or that undermine U.S. national security. The department expects the changes to impact about \$40 million out of the \$600 million in international sales that U.S. gun manufacturers make on average annually. □

House and Senate negotiate bill to help FAA add more air traffic controllers and safety inspectors

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

Congressional negotiators have agreed on a \$105 billion bill designed to improve the safety of air travel after a series of close calls between planes at the nation's airports.

House and Senate lawmakers said Monday that the bill will increase the number of air traffic controllers and require the Federal Aviation Administration to use new technology designed to prevent collisions between planes on runways.

Lawmakers agreed to prohibit airlines from charging extra for families to sit together, and they tripled maximum fines for airlines that violate consumer laws. However, they left out other consumer protections proposed by the Biden administration.

The bill was negotiated by Republicans and Democrats who lead the House and Senate committees overseeing the FAA, which has been under scrutiny since it approved Boeing jets that were quickly involved in two deadly crashes in 2018 and 2019. The legislation will govern FAA operations for the next five years.

The Senate could vote on



A Federal Aviation Administration sign hangs in the tower at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, March 16, 2017.

the 1,069-page measure as early as next week, but it could be delayed if senators try to attach unrelated bills. FAA is operating under a temporary authorization that expires May 10, and Congress might need to pass another extension.

The House approved its version of the bill last year, but a Senate committee approved a different version in February after fights over several provisions, including ones dealing with the training and retirement age of pilots.

In the end, negotiators dropped a House provision raising the mandatory retirement age for airline pilots to 67; it will remain at 65. Both chambers had already sidestepped a highly charged issue by narrowly rejecting a proposal backed by small airlines to let aspiring pilots count more time spent in simulators instead of flying planes toward reaching minimum experience standards.

The FAA has a shortage of about 3,000 air traffic controllers nationwide. Sen.

Associated Press

Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., chair of the Senate Commerce Committee and one of the negotiators, said the final bill shows "that aviation safety and stronger consumer standards are a big priority It is also the first major upgrade to air traffic controller hiring in decades."

One of the most contentious issues in the bill turns out to be a provision that would allow an additional 10 flights per day longer than 1,250 miles to and from Reagan Washington

National Airport, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. Delta Air Lines and some Western lawmakers wanted to add 56 flights. The House said no, but a Senate committee approved 10 flights, or five round trips and that made it into the final bill.

"We were pushing for more, but if we get five, we'll take five," Delta CEO Ed Bastian said in an interview this month.

United Airlines, which dominates less-convenient Dullles Airport, 25 miles west of the nation's capital, opposed the idea. Lawmakers from Virginia and Maryland said Monday they were "deeply frustrated" at the provision, arguing that National is already too busy. They pointed to a close call there between two planes earlier in April, calling it a "flashing red warning light," and a choice of convenience over safety.

Lawmakers in both chambers rejected a proposal from consumer groups to give state officials power to regulate airlines, but the administration separately cut a deal letting 15 mostly Democratic states help the U.S. Transportation Department enforce federal consumer-protection rules. □

Supreme Court will hear case claiming CBD product got trucker fired

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to hear an appeal from a CBD hemp oil maker fighting a lawsuit from a truck driver who says he got fired after using a product falsely advertised as being free from marijuana's active ingredient.

Douglas Horn says he took the product to help with chronic shoulder and back pain he had after a serious accident. The company said it contained CBD, a generally legal compound that is widely sold as a dietary supplement and in-

cluded in personal-care products, but not THC, which gives marijuana its high, Horn said in court documents.

After a failed routine drug test got him fired, Horn says he confirmed with a lab that the product did have THC. He sued the Vista, California, company under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, among other claims, alleging the THC-free marketing amounted to fraud. The law known as RICO was crafted as a tool to prosecute organized crime, but people can also file civil suits under it against

alleged schemes and collect triple the damages if they win. An appeals court found Horn's claim should be allowed to go forward. Medical Marijuana, Inc. appealed that decision to the Supreme Court. The company disputes Horn's claims and argues that he can't sue under RICO because he's claiming a personal injury. Other appeals courts have dismissed RICO suits in similar circumstances, the company said, making this case a good one to decide on a nationwide rule.

Horn, for his part, says his firing was a business injury

and he's been financially ruined.

The case will be heard in the fall. □



The sun flares in the camera lens as it rises behind the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, June 25, 2017.

Associated Press

College protesters want 'amnesty.' At stake: Tuition, legal charges, grades and graduation

By JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

Maryam Alwan figured the worst was over after New York City police in riot gear arrested her and other protesters on the Columbia University campus, loaded them onto buses and held them in custody for hours. But the next evening, the college junior received an email from the university. Alwan and other students were being suspended after their arrests at the "Gaza Solidarity Encampment," a tactic colleges across the country have deployed to calm growing campus protests against the Israel-Hamas war.

The students' plight has become a central part of protests, with students and a growing number of faculty demanding their amnesty. At issue is whether universities and law enforcement will clear the charges and withhold other consequences, or whether the suspensions and legal records will follow students into their adult lives.

Terms of the suspensions vary from campus to campus. At Columbia and its affiliated Barnard College for women, Alwan and dozens more were arrested April 18



Northeastern University Police remove and arrest protesters one by one at the tent encampment on campus in Boston on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

and promptly barred from campus and classes, unable to attend in-person or virtually, and banned from dining halls.

Questions about their academic futures remain. Will they be allowed to take final exams? What about financial aid? Graduation? Columbia says outcomes will be decided at disciplinary hearings, but Alwan says she has not been giv-

en a date.

"This feels very dystopian," said Alwan, a comparative literature and society major.

What started at Columbia has turned into a nationwide showdown between students and administrators over anti-war protests and the limits of free speech. In the past 10 days, hundreds of students have been arrested, suspended, put on

probation and, in rare cases, expelled from colleges including Yale University, the University of Southern California, Vanderbilt University and the University of Minnesota.

Barnard, a women's liberal arts college at Columbia, suspended more than 50 students who were arrested April 18 and evicted them from campus housing, according to interviews with

students and reporting from the Columbia Spectator campus newspaper, which obtained internal campus documents.

On Friday, Barnard announced it had reached agreements restoring campus access to "nearly all" of them. A statement from the college did not specify the number but said all students who had their suspensions lifted have agreed to follow college rules and, in some cases, were put on probation.

On the night of the arrests, however, Barnard student Maryam Iqbal posted a screenshot on the social media platform X of a dean's email telling her she could briefly return to her room with campus security before getting kicked out.

"You will have 15 minutes to gather what you might need," the email read.

More than 100 Barnard and Columbia faculty staged a "Rally to Support Our Students" last week condemning the student arrests and demanding suspensions be lifted.

Columbia is still pushing to remove the tent encampment on the campus main lawn where graduation is set to be hosted May 15. □

Associated Press

Prosecutors say they will not retry an Arizona rancher accused of murder near the U.S.-Mexico border

By ANITA SNOW
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Prosecu-

tors said Monday they will not retry an Arizona rancher whose trial in the fatal

shooting of a Mexican man on his property ended last week with a deadlocked jury.

The jurors in the trial of George Alan Kelly were unable to reach a unanimous decision on a verdict after more than two days of deliberation. Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Thomas Fink declared a mistrial on April 22. After the mistrial, the Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office had the option to retry Kelly — or to drop the case. Fink dismissed the case as requested by prosecutors. Kelly could not immediately be reached for comment. His defense attorney

Brenna Larkin did not immediately return a request for comment sent by email after Fink ruled.

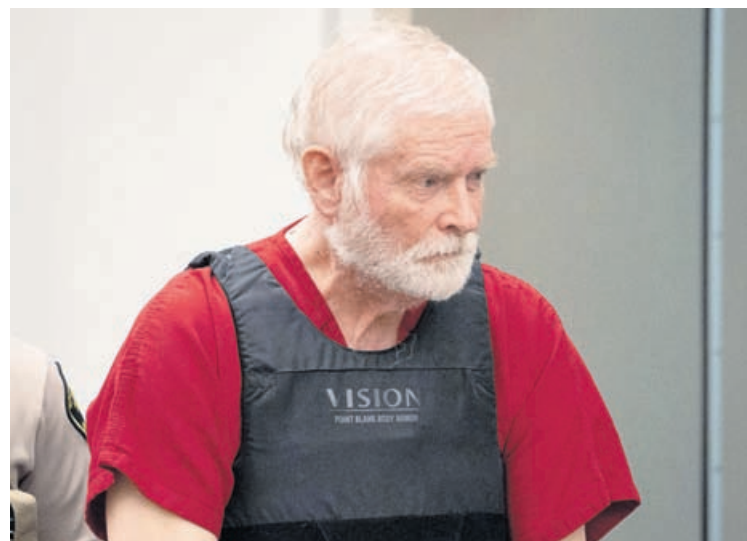
The 75-year-old Kelly had been on trial for nearly a month in Nogales, which is on the border with Mexico. The rancher had been charged with second-degree murder in the Jan. 30, 2023, killing of 48-year-old Gabriel Cuen-Buitimea outside Nogales, Arizona.

Cuen-Buitimea had lived just south of the border in Nogales, Mexico. He was in a group of men that Kelly encountered that day on his cattle ranch. His two adult daughters, along with Mexican consular officials,

met with prosecutors last week to learn about the implications of a mistrial.

Prosecutors had said Kelly recklessly fired nine shots from an AK-47 rifle toward a group of men on his cattle ranch, including Cuen-Buitimea, about 100 yards (90 meters) away. Kelly has said he fired warning shots in the air, but argued he didn't shoot directly at anyone.

The trial coincided with a presidential election year that has drawn widespread interest in border security. During it, court officials took jurors to Kelly's ranch as well as a section of the U.S.-Mexico border. □



George Alan Kelly enters court for his preliminary hearing in Nogales Justice Court in Nogales, Ariz., Feb. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

NATO chief chides members as Ukraine's allies say slow arms deliveries have helped Russia

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — NATO countries haven't delivered what they promised to Ukraine in time, the alliance's chief said Monday, allowing Russia to press its advantage while Kyiv's depleted forces wait for military supplies to arrive from the U.S. and Europe.

"Serious delays in support have meant serious consequences on the battlefield" for Ukraine, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference in Kyiv with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Outgunned, Ukraine's troops have struggled to fend off Russian advances on the battlefield. They were recently compelled to make a tactical retreat from three villages in the east, where the Kremlin's forces have been making incremental gains, Ukraine's army chief said Sunday. The Russian Defense Ministry claimed Monday its forces had also taken the village of Semenivka.

"The lack of ammunition has allowed the Russians to push forward along the front line. Lack of air defense has made it possible for more Russian missiles to



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, welcomes NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg during their meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, April 29, 2024.

hit their targets, and the lack of deep strike capabilities has made it possible for the Russians to concentrate more forces," Stoltenberg said.

Kyiv's Western partners have repeatedly vowed to stand with Ukraine "for as long as it takes." But vital U.S. military help was held up for six months by political differences in Washington, and Europe's military hardware production has not kept up with demand.

Ukraine's own manufacturing of heavy weapons is only now starting to gain traction.

Now, Ukraine and its Western partners are racing to deploy critical new military aid that can help check the slow and costly but steady Russian advance across eastern areas, as well as thwart drone and missile attacks.

Zelenskyy said new Western supplies have started arriving, but slowly. "This process

must be speeded up," he said at the news conference with Stoltenberg.

Though the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line has shifted little since early in the war, the Kremlin's forces in recent weeks have edged forward, especially in the Donetsk region, with sheer numbers and massive firepower used to bludgeon defensive positions. Russia also continues to launch missiles, drones and bombs at cities across

Ukraine. At least four people were killed and 27 injured in a Russian missile strike on residential buildings and "civil infrastructure" in the southern Ukrainian port city of Odesa on Monday, regional governor Oleh Kiper said on the Telegram messaging site.

A turreted Gothic-style building known locally as the "Harry Potter Castle," was seen in flames after the strike.

Russia is a far bigger country than Ukraine, with greater resources. It has also received weapons support from Iran and North Korea, the U.S. government says. Drawn-out Ukrainian efforts to mobilize more troops, and the belated building of battlefield fortifications, are other factors undermining Ukraine's war effort, military analysts say.

Nick Reynolds, a research fellow for land warfare at the London-based Royal United Services Institute, said the war "is still largely an artillery duel."

He said he did not expect to see major movement of the front lines in the near term, but that "the conditions are being set for which side has military advantage at the front line. □

Solomon Islands pro-Beijing prime minister won't keep his job following elections

By ROD MCGUIRK

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — Solomon Islands pro-Beijing Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare on Monday withdrew from the contest to remain head of the strategically important South Pacific island nation's government following general elections two weeks ago that are central to the U.S.-China rivalry in the region.

Sogavare has been re-elected to the parliament. But he told a news conference in the capital Honiara on Monday he would not



In this image taken from video, outgoing Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare speaks during a news conference, Monday, April 29, 2024, in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Associated Press

be nominated as a candidate when the 50 newly elected lawmakers vote on Thursday for the prime minister, Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Sogavare had hoped to become the first Solomons prime minister to maintain power in consecutive four-year terms following the April 17 election.

During his previous term, China's influence increased more in the Solomons than anywhere else in the South Pacific.

Sogavare switched diplomatic allegiances from Taiwan to Beijing and struck

a secret security pact that has raised fears of the Chinese navy gaining a foothold in the region.

Sogavare said in his press conference he had been "vilified by media" and his family had been subjected to "unprecedented abuse," the ABC reported. Sogavare's Ownership, Unity and Responsibility Party, known as the Our Party, won 15 seats in the election, more than any other party.

The party's candidate to become prime minister will be Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele. □

Philippine students are told to stay home as Southeast Asia copes with a sweltering heat wave

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA (AP) — Southeast Asia was coping with a weeklong heat wave on Monday as record-high temperatures led to school closings in several countries and urgent health warnings throughout the region.

Millions of students in all public schools across the Philippines were ordered to stay home Monday after authorities canceled in-person classes for two days. The main advice for everyone, everywhere has been to avoid outdoor activities and drink plenty of water, but the young and the elderly were told to be especially careful.

Cambodia this year is facing the highest temperatures in 170 years, Chan Yutha, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, told The Associated Press on Monday.

His agency has forecast that temperatures in most parts of the country could reach up to 43 degrees Celsius (109 degrees Fahr-



Parking attendant Andy Tinto uses laundry clips to put a blue towel over his cap to protect him from the sun as he assists cars in Manila, Philippines on Monday, April 29, 2024.

Associated Press

enheit) this week.

Myanmar's meteorological department said Monday that seven townships in the central Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing and Bago regions experienced record-high temperatures. Several towns in Myanmar last week were on lists of the

hottest spots worldwide.

Chauk township in Magway, historically the country's hottest region, saw Myanmar's highest temperature at 48.2 degrees Celsius (118.8 degrees Fahrenheit), breaking the previous record of 47.4 degrees Celsius (117.3 degrees Fahr-

enheit) set in 1968.

The Philippines is among the nations worst affected by the sweltering weather in Southeast Asia, where the intense tropical summer heat worsened by humidity forced class cancellations in recent weeks and sparked fears of water

shortages, power outages and damage to agricultural crops.

The Department of Education ordered students in more than 47,000 public schools to switch to home-based and online learning due to health risks from record-high temperatures and a three-day strike starting Monday by drivers who oppose a government program they fear would remove dilapidated passenger jeepneys from streets. Large crowds have sought relief in air-conditioned shopping malls in Metropolitan Manila, the congested capital region of more than 14 million people where the temperature soared to 38.8 degrees Celsius (101.84 Fahrenheit) Saturday, surpassing the record set decades ago, according to weather officials.

In Thailand, temperatures have topped 44 C (111 F) in some areas in the northern parts of the country, while the capital Bangkok and metropolitan areas have seen temperatures go above 40 C (104 F). □

Ecuador files complaint against Mexico at top U.N. court in spat over embassy raid

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuador filed a complaint Monday at the top U.N. court over what it called Mexico's illegal move to grant political asylum to a former Ecuadorian vice president, which led to Ecuador's highly criticized raid on a Mexican embassy earlier this month.

The Ecuadorian complaint at the International Court of Justice in the Netherlands intensifies a high-profile diplomatic quarrel with Mexico, which has filed its own complaint with the panel alleging that Ecuador's highly unusual April 5 raid to arrest Jorge Glas was illegal.

Ecuador's counterclaim is that Glas was a fugitive wanted on corruption convictions and not for political reasons, and that therefore

he was not eligible for Mexico's diplomatic protection. Ecuadorian authorities forcibly entered the Mexican embassy in Quito to arrest the former Ecuadorian vice president hours after Mexico granted him asylum.

Mexico failed to comply with "its obligations not to grant asylum to people who are being prosecuted or on trial for common crimes or have been convicted by competent ordinary courts," Ecuador's Foreign Ministry said in a

statement.

Glas, who was convicted in two corruption cases, had been living at the diplomatic compound in Ecuador's capital, Quito, since December. He is now being held at a maximum security prison at the port city of Guayaquil.

The court said in a statement that Ecuador "accuses Mexico of unlawfully granting Mr Glas political asylum and of interfering in its internal affairs."

Security camera video released by Mexico's government shows that Ecuadorian police scaled the embassy walls and broke into the building. Roberto Canseco, Mexico's head of consular affairs in Ecuador, tried to keep them from entering, even pushing a large cabinet in front of a

door. But police restrained him and pushed him to the floor as they carried Glas out.

Authorities are currently investigating Glas over alleged irregularities during his management of reconstruction efforts following a powerful earthquake in 2016 that killed hundreds of people. He previously was convicted on two separate bribery and corruption cases. Diplomatic premises are considered foreign soil and "inviolable" under the Vienna treaties and host country law enforcement agencies are not allowed to enter without permission from the ambassador. Legal experts, Latin American presidents and diplomats swiftly condemned Ecuador's extremely rare show of force. □



Supporters of former Vice President Jorge Glas cheer after an Ecuadorian court of justice declared that his arrest inside Mexico's embassy was illegal, in Quito, Ecuador, April 12, 2024.

Visit the island's hidden natural pools

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle’s Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you’re up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you’ve completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It’s also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural

pool that is hidden there. Because it’s still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won’t be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you’ll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.



And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.□

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours

Celebrate Labor Day at the Marine Barracks in Savaneta

(Oranjestad)—It is tradition on Labor Day that the Marine Barracks in Savaneta hold its annual Labor Day fair for all to come and enjoy their day off with the family. This year it’s no different, so don’t miss out on the Labor Day fun!

Labor Day is perhaps the busiest day for the Marine Barracks in Savaneta, as locals normally line up early in the morning to get into the base, where there will be multiple activities organized for the family to enjoy.

Some of the traditional activities include a tour in the Coast Guard patrol ship,



civilian-friendly drill exercises, paint ball, face painting, and more. Visitors can also enjoy local cuisine and snacks, as well as shop for locally-produced art, jewelry, books and much more.

Last year’s Labor Day fair

at the MZK was especially significant, as it was the first time since the pandemic that the MZK hosted its well-loved event. People were already lined up before doors opened at 10am, and many were excited to experience again the tradition that was put on hold for two consecutive years.

The fair is fun and exciting, but it should also be mentioned that visitors must be cautious of the heat, as the event takes place in open air under the blaring noon/afternoon sun. So, if you are interested in going, do not forget to apply sunscreen



generously and throughout the event, wear a hat or protective clothing, drink plenty of water throughout the day, and make sure you don’t spend the day on an empty stomach.

Entrance to the fair is com-

pletely free, but lines can get really long, and the traffic around the area can also get very crowded, so make sure to come early to find a comfortable parking spot and be one of the first to enter!□



One Love Foundation Inc. celebrated King’s Day with a fabulous dog walk!



ORANJESTAD – On Saturday, April 27th, in celebration of King’s Day, dog rescue foundation, One Love Foundation Inc. held a dog walk to raise awareness about animal well being and at the same time raise funds for a spay and neuter campaign.

The walk and run began on the Linear Park, starting in front of the parking lot of Costa Linda hotel. Dozens of people and dozens of dogs

participated in the event, a colorful and joyful display to celebrate King’s Day. Among the dogs participating in the walk, many were rescued and available for adoption, including a sibling of Khaleesi, who became known in Aruba recently due to her unfortunate death.

“We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the participants and sponsors who made our 3rd annual charity

dog walk/run such a huge success!” the foundation commented on their Facebook page. “Awareness was raised and many new friends were made, all while raising funds for spay and neuter.”

The foundation thanked their sponsors, primarily Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, which co-hosted the event and matched dollar-for-dollar on donations!□



★ **Happy Labor Day**

On this day we recognize and celebrate the effort of everyone who contributes to the growth and prosperity of our island. We appreciate the dedication, hard work and the compromise to build a better Aruba for one and for all.

On behalf of Aruba Tourism Authority

Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all qualified Club members.

2X *Double Point Tuesday!*

**Earn
DOUBLE POINTS
all day long!**

Use your Players' Club card
to play our slots and we'll
DOUBLE your points!

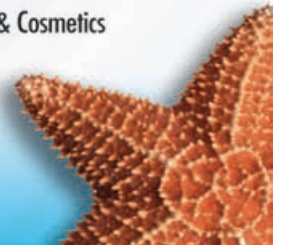
THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Aruba Tours & Adventures | Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe
Behind The Mask | Juan Valdez Café | Baskin-Robbins
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market | M8 Boutique
Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa
Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors
The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics

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Paseo Herencia; An exciting destination for leisure and entertainment



NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.

Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy



Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

VIP Cinema

Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.

Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Monday to Friday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly water-shows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying



mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier. For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at www.paseoherencia.com.





Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.□

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock

Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

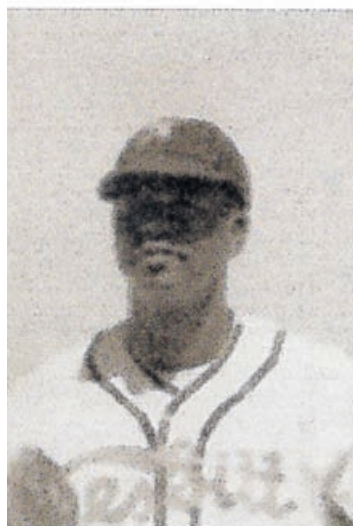
ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.

Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a doubleheader of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was



the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team



sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers". Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Se-

ries that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Look upon
- 7 See socially
- 11 Mecca's place
- 12 Poet Khayyám
- 13 Tempting
- 15 Stand up
- 16 Rara —
- 18 Picnic pests
- 21 Secluded valley
- 22 Dealer's place
- 24 Neither follower
- 25 Buddy
- 26 Fiddling need
- 27 Movie ad
- 29 Smoke source
- 30 Family fight
- 31 "Dog-gone!"
- 32 Printer's proof
- 34 Day-dreaming
- 40 Pop star
- 41 Broad street
- 42 Took the bus
- 43 Walk-up dweller

DOWN

- 1 Baseball need
- 2 Period of history
- 3 Solo of "Star Wars"
- 4 Acquire
- 5 Tale tellers
- 6 Surrealist Salvador
- 7 Egg buys
- 8 Paris pal
- 9 Suede shade
- 10 Work unit
- 14 Writer Asimov
- 16 Detached
- 17 Poem part
- 19 Leg bone
- 20 Horse sound
- 21 Economic fig.
- 22 Lot buy
- 23 Have debts
- 25 Sorceress
- 28 Slow mover
- 29 Like ice
- 31 Impetus
- 33 Exam for high school jrs.
- 34 Fragrant tree
- 35 Com-motion
- 36 Silent approval
- 37 "— pig's eye!"
- 38 Convent resident
- 39 Attain

W	O	L	F	E		D	W	E	L	L
A	D	O	R	N		R	E	V	U	E
R	E	G	A	N		E	D	I	T	S
			N	U	T	S		L	E	T
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R	O	O	F		T	E	T	H	E	R
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			T	I	N	S	T	A	R	S
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S	L	A	N	G		S	T	E	E	P

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15							
	16	17					18		19	20
21						22				23
24				25				26		
27				28				29		
	30						31			
			32			33				
34	35	36						37	38	39
40						41				
42						43				

4-30

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

M F X Q D I E D X Z T X M Z F M R

T S S G J — J D G T - B S R T M W D R B D .

L N T E M D R W J B X G G M Z .

— D W I X E X G G X R V S D

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER JUST MAY BE THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES. — AMANDA GORMAN

Cruise ship Schedule: Apr 30 2024

TUE	30	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	I	1

Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 22 2024

TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Surging auto insurance rates squeeze drivers, fuel inflation

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Relentlessly rising auto insurance rates are squeezing car owners and stoking inflation.

Auto insurance rates rose 2.6% in March and are up 22% from a year ago. Premium costs have been marching steadily higher since 2022, even as inflation at the consumer level

steadily cooled from its 9.1% peak in the middle of that year. Consumers have had some relief as the rate of cost increases for food and energy, two key components of most budgets, has eased greatly.

But auto insurance and car ownership costs have become a sticking point for consumers and the Federal Reserve in its battle to rein inflation back to its goal of 2%.

Typically, individuals would see a noticeable increase in their premiums because of speeding tickets and other moving violations. Adding new drivers or a general increase in claims in the area were other reasons.

But the persistent rise in rates over the last two years has been far more sweeping. New vehicle prices starting spiking during the pandemic, mainly because of a worldwide shortage of computer chips amid production cuts and supply chain bottlenecks. Dealers spent much of 2021 with few or no cars in stock.

Car price increases eased heading into 2024, with the average at \$47,338 in January, down from a peak of \$48,516 in late 2022, according to Edmunds.com. Higher value for cars, along with more advanced technology and intricate parts,



Heavy traffic is seen at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Monday, April 15, 2024.

Associated Press

has raised the overall cost of repairs. Overall maintenance and repair costs jumped 8.2% in March from a year ago, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's eased a bit over the last year. The rate of increase was as high as 14.2% in early 2023.

"The severity is really the thing that has influenced rates more over the last two years than anything," said Greg Smolan, vice president of insurance operations at AAA Northeast. "A fender bender in the past didn't have all the sensors and cameras." Higher overall auto prices and auto repair costs prompted insurers to start raising premiums as overall car values jumped. Price increases for insurance

rates, like many other increases from food to clothing, have been sticky and are less likely to drop at the same rate as broader inflation, if at all.

That has been beneficial for insurers who have seen profits surge. Wall Street is expecting bigger leaps in 2024. □

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San Nicolas:

San Nicolas:Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
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Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Instagram, YouTube the biggest likely winners of TikTok ban but smaller rivals could rise too

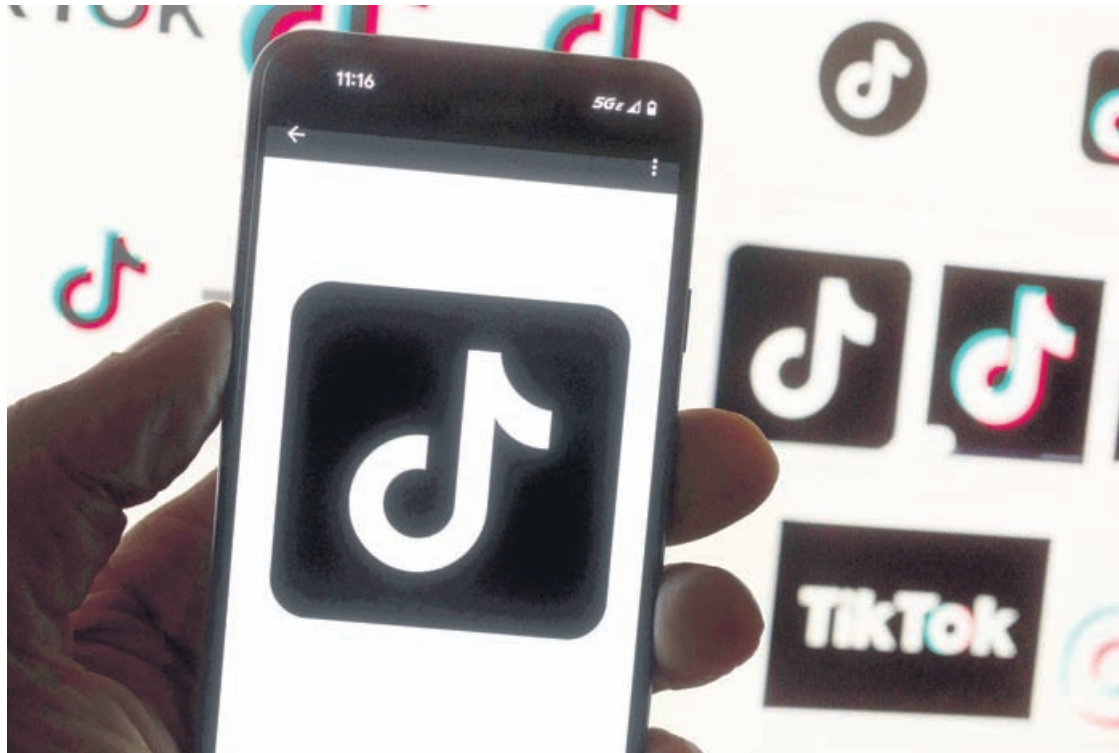
By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer

Adult U.S. TikTok users spend an average of 54 minutes on the app on any given day, more than Instagram, Snapchat or YouTube, according to research firm eMarketer. If TikTok were to disappear, those platforms along with younger, smaller emerging rivals would be scrambling for those valuable minutes of people's attention.

But with an actual ban still likely years away, it's not clear what app will be its biggest beneficiary. Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, may see more advertisers amid uncertainty for its biggest rival, according to analysts who follow the company. Creators, dealing with uncertainty themselves are also expanding to other platforms if they weren't already. But users, especially the younger ones who are TikTok's bread and butter, are less predictable. Will they embrace Instagram, a possibly uncool mom favorite? Or could a newer app like Triller rise to viral fame? Here's a look at some notable TikTok alternatives and how they measure up.

INSTAGRAM

Meta has a long tradition of cloning competitive services, with varying degrees



The TikTok logo is displayed on a mobile phone in front of a computer screen, Oct. 14, 2022, in Boston.

of success. The Instagram "Story" feature, which lets people share photos and videos that expire in 24 hours, is similar to Snapchat. The company also launched a TikTok knock-off called Lasso in 2018 but closed that down in 2020. Then Instagram launched Reels 2020, a TikTok-like feed of short videos users can create or scroll through. It's proven to be massively popular. Could it replace TikTok? That depends. While many creators post on both plat-

forms, some experts say the youngest users are unlikely to migrate to a service made popular by their millennial parents. And while Meta's algorithm is addictive, it's still not TikTok. "Replicating TikTok's algorithm is a nearly impossible task, as rival Meta would attest to," said eMarketer analyst Jasmine Enberg. "TikTok's ability to serve up relevant and entertaining content to its users is unparalleled in the social media world."

YOUTUBE

While TikTok gets more

headlines, YouTube still dominates U.S. teens' attention. Roughly nine in ten teens said they use YouTube, in a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, making it the most widely used platform among the 13-17 crowd. TikTok clocked in at 63%, Snapchat at 60% and Instagram at 59%. Its parent company Google launched YouTube Shorts in 2020, shortly after India banned TikTok.

YouTube users can scroll through Shorts just as they can on TikTok or Reels on

Instagram and Facebook, watching hours of bite-sized videos. As with Reels, many of the videos featured are from TikTok or creators who post to several different platforms. That said, YouTube is still known for its longer-format videos, so it may not have the variety that TikTok users are looking for at least not yet.

SNAPCHAT

While older adults never quite got into Snapchat, launched in 2011 with its infamous disappearing videos, it remains popular among teens and younger adults. In addition to its disappearing video feature, the company launched Snapchat Spotlight in 2020 (yes, the same year India banned TikTok and former U.S. President Donald Trump was trying to in the U.S.). The feature can be accessed by pressing the sideways triangle icon at the bottom of your screen and, at least according to Snapchat, it "shines a light on the most entertaining Snaps, no matter who created them."

TRILLER, ZIGAZOO AND OTHERS

If you're sick of the establishment crowd, newer startups such as Triller offer possible alternatives, with TikTok-like features and more (or sometimes less). □

Supreme Court rejects Musk appeal over social media posts that must be approved by Tesla



Elon Musk arrives at the 10th Breakthrough Prize Ceremony at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles, April 13, 2024.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal from Elon Musk over a settlement with securities regulators that requires him to get approval in advance of some social media posts that relate to Tesla, the electric vehicle company he leads. The justices did not comment in leaving in place lower-court rulings against Musk, who complained that the requirement amounts to "prior restraint" on his speech in violation of the First Amendment. The case stems from mes-

sages Musk posted on Twitter in 2018 in which he claimed he had secured funding to take Tesla private. The tweets caused the company's share price to jump and led to a temporary halt in trading. The settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission included a requirement that his posts on Twitter, now known as X, be approved first by a Tesla attorney. It also called for Musk and Tesla to pay civil fines over the tweets in which Musk said he had "funding secured" to take

Tesla private at \$420 per share.

The funding wasn't secured, and Tesla remains public. The SEC's initial enforcement action against Musk alleged that his tweets about going private violated antifraud provisions of securities laws. The agency began investigating whether Musk violated the settlement in 2021 when he did not get approval before asking followers on Twitter if he should sell 10% of his Tesla stock.

Musk acquired Twitter in 2022. □

Seattle Kraken fire coach Dave Hakstol after leading the franchise for its first 3 seasons

By **TIM BOOTH**
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Kraken fired coach Dave Hakstol on Monday after the third-year franchise took a significant step back following a playoff appearance in their second season.

Hakstol was a finalist for the Jack Adams Award as coach of the year last season as Seattle finished with 100 points and reached the Western Conference semi-finals in its second year.

But the Kraken failed to match expectations this season and spent most of the year trying to climb back into playoff contention after a terrible start, and failed to build on the success of that playoff run. Seattle finished tied for fifth in the Pacific Division after going 34-35-13 with 81 points, and was officially eliminated from playoff contention with two weeks left in the regular season.

Hakstol went 107-112-27 in his three seasons in charge of the Kraken.

Seattle general manager Ron Francis hinted that



Seattle Kraken head coach Dave Hakstol looks on from the bench against the Colorado Avalanche during the third period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup first-round playoff series Monday, April 24, 2023, in Seattle.

changes could be coming less than a week after the season ended. Given the chance to confirm Hakstol would get a fourth season, Francis instead hedged and said a review was underway to analyze the entire coaching staff. A week later, Hakstol was out.

"I thank Dave for his hard work and dedication to the Kraken franchise," Francis said in a statement. "Following our end-of-the-season review, we have decided to make a change at our head coach position. These decisions are never easy, but we feel this is a necessary step to help

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ensure our team continues to improve and evolve.

Francis also said assistant coach Paul McFarland would not return.

Hakstol was rewarded with a two-year extension after last season when Seattle reached the second round of the playoffs and kept Hakstol under contract

through the 2025-26 season. But Seattle was unable to maintain the style of play that led to its success last season and couldn't overcome significant injuries to Andre Burakovsky, Brandon Tanev and Philipp Grubauer early in the season. Seattle also played most of the final portion of the season without top defenseman Vince Dunn due to neck injury. Seattle started this season 8-14-7 including an eight-game losing streak, before a big turnaround in late December and January that pushed the Kraken back into the playoff conversation. But the Kraken went just 13-16-3 after the All-Star break and a painful overtime loss at home to Vegas on March 12 brought an end to any reasonable playoff aspirations. Scoring goals was a problem that the Kraken couldn't solve all season. Seattle was 29th in the league in goals scored, 29th in shooting percentage and 18th on the power play, negating a season of strong defense and goaltending. □

Nadal tested in 3-hour win over Cachin in Madrid and Swiatek reaches women's quarters

By **TALES AZZONI**
AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Rafael Nadal's body withstood its toughest test yet at the Madrid Open as he needed three sets and more than three hours to get past 91st-ranked Pedro Cachin on Monday.

Nadal didn't show any signs of physical limitations as he won 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-3 to make it to the round of 16 at the clay-court tournament where he is the record five-time champion. He will next face 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka.

"I took more risks in the third set, but it's hard after so many months without competing," Nadal said. "I hadn't played a match like this in a long time. Let's see how it goes tomorrow. I

don't know how I'm going to wake up. But I'm already happy for having won three matches in a row."

The 37-year-old Nadal is trying to get in shape for

next month's French Open. Since his latest injury layoff, he's had two matches in Barcelona and was pessimistic about his physical condition after arriving in



Rafael Nadal of Spain watches his shot against Pedro Cachin of Argentina during the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, Monday, April 29, 2024.

Associated Press

Madrid. But he's won three more times in the capital.

Nadal again looked comfortable early on against Cachin. The Argentine fought back in the second set but was broken twice while serving for the set. Cachin eventually prevailed in the tiebreaker.

Nadal didn't look as loose in the final set, but did look tired.

He wasn't as consistent with his shots but picked up three breaks to seal the victory to the delight of the local crowd in the Caja Magica.

Earlier, Daniil Medvedev came from behind to defeat Sebastian Korda 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3. The third-seeded Russian was two points from defeat.

Felix Auger-Aliassime ad-

vanced after Jakub Mensik retired with an elbow injury. Auger-Aliassime was winning 6-1, 1-0.

SWIATEK ADVANCES

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek remained on track for a first Madrid title by dispatching Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-1, 6-0. Swiatek dropped just five points in the second set en route to the quarterfinals of the only major European clay tournament the Pole has yet to win.

The 27th-ranked Sorribes Tormo was the last Spanish woman still in the draw in Madrid.

Swiatek, who lost last year's Madrid final to Aryna Sabalenka, will next face 11th-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia, who defeated fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari 6-4, 6-4. □

IndyCar cheating scandal risks sully Roger Penske's perfect image

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

Santino Ferrucci once made a typo in a social media post in which he incorrectly spelled Josef Newgarden's first name. Newgarden, a two-time IndyCar champion at the time, quickly responded to Ferrucci, who does not drive for a powerhouse such as Team Penske. "It's Josef(asterisk)" he wrote two years ago. "At Penske, we care about details."

It was a zinger that earned Newgarden scorn at the time for his arrogance to a driver on a lesser team. But he was being honest attention to detail is next level under Roger Penske's watchful eye and that's what makes the cheating scandal that has rocked IndyCar so troubling.

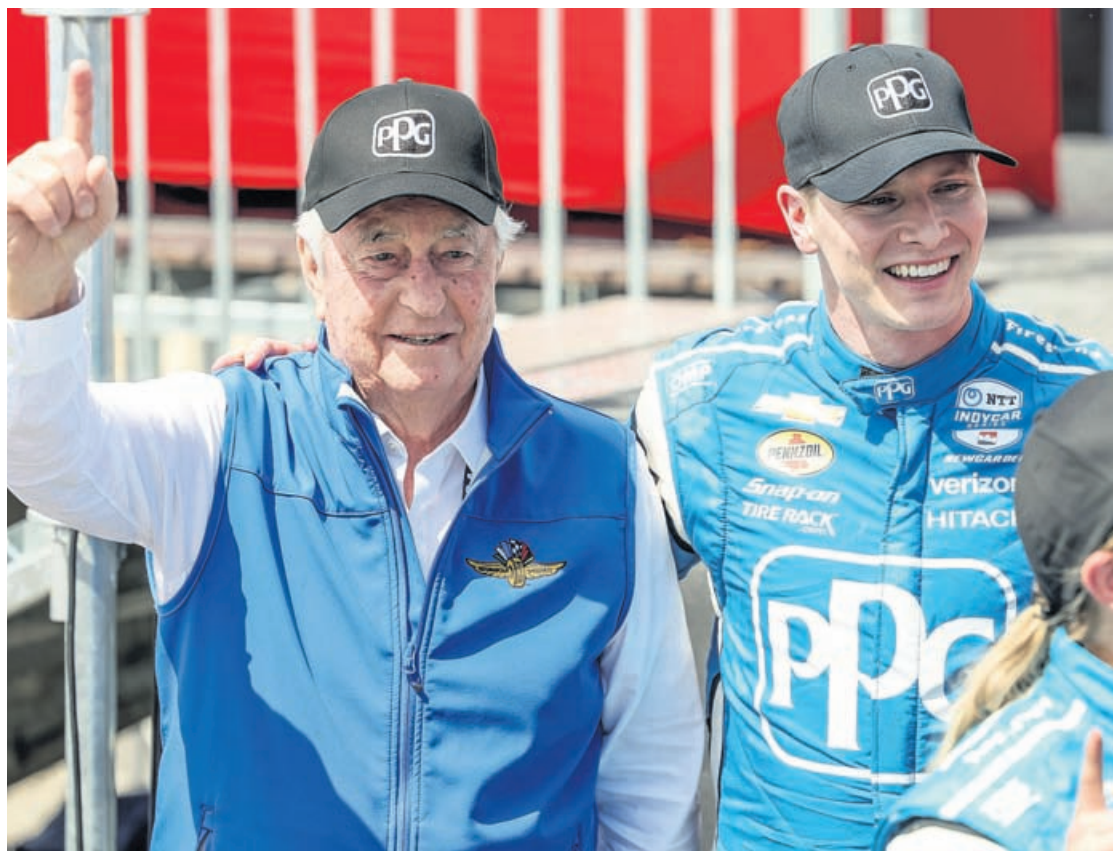
IndyCar last week disqualified Newgarden's victory and teammate Scott McLaughlin's third-place finish in the March season-opening race because it realized weeks later that the Team Penske push-to-pass software had been illegally used by both drivers during restarts.

Newgarden says this is all just one big misunderstanding and the reigning Indianapolis 500 winner thought there had been a rule change allowing the extra boost of horsepower on restarts.

Team Penske officials called it an error in transferring the software systems from hybrid test sessions onto the 2024 cars.

Roger Penske, who owns the team, IndyCar and Indianapolis Motor Speedway, has said he was embarrassed by all this. He summoned all IndyCar owners into his motorcoach for a brief Saturday mea culpa session in which the 87-year-old apologized for the damage his team had done to the series.

A.J. Foyt, who was not present for the meeting but represented by his son, on Monday staunchly defend-



Team Penske driver Josef Newgarden, right, celebrates his victory with team owner Roger Penske after the IndyCar Grand Prix of St. Petersburg auto race, Sunday, March 10, 2024, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

ed Penske.

"I think the drivers thought they could use the (system) at a certain time, and it turned out they couldn't, so I think it was all just a big misunderstanding," Foyt told The Associated Press. "I have known Roger longer than anyone in my career. He is straight up. He's not a B-plus guy, he's an A-plus guy. He doesn't need to cheat for his cars to win races and I really respect him for standing up to the owners and offering his side."

Here's the problem: Penske Perfect is a way of life and, as Newgarden himself stated, the entire operation pays immaculate attention to detail. So there is only one of two options in this scenario: Either Newgarden and multiple members of the No. 2 team cheated, or, Penske's employees are incredibly inept at their jobs.

Newgarden's explanation Newgarden said that when he pushed the P2P button on a restart and it worked, he assumed there had been a rule change. That doesn't match the Team

Penske claim that some software simply wasn't changed on this year's cars before the season began. You aren't alone if you believe Team Penske is playing you for a fool; that was the feeling across the paddock all weekend at Barber Motorsports Park. Penske drivers McLaughlin and Will Power, the only one of the three not accused of any wrongdoing, went 1-2 in the race but it was heavily overshadowed by this controversy and what it could mean for Penske's legacy. It's simply not believable that one of three cars owned by series leadership thought a major rule had been changed without any public announcement. Newgarden and the No. 2 team also didn't bother to talk over any suspected rule change with their teammates.

The data that Newgarden had illegal access to P2P would be obvious to any Penske or Chevrolet engineer who reviewed his daily on-track metrics. Only a glitch during warm-up at Long Beach that knocked the software out on all the

cars except the three Penske cars brought the issue to light.

The systems were ordered fixed before the Long Beach race.

The Captain Penske is adamant he had no knowledge of the situation until IndyCar competition officials alerted him early last week. Newgarden used the word "interrogated" to describe his conversation with his boss. Even after his in-person apology to his colleagues on Saturday at Barber, Penske still has doubters. One rival car owner told The AP that Penske knows "exactly how many cars he sells daily and what the tire pressure is on every one of his global leasing trucks," offering an analogy as to how Penske couldn't possibly have been unaware of the shenanigans.

Another team owner reminded the AP that in 1967, Trans-Am race stewards discovered Penske and driver Mark Donohue had figured out that by dipping their car in an acid bath, it would eat away small amounts of metal and

make the car incrementally lighter and faster. It won its final race by lapping the entire field and was found in post-race inspection to be 250 pounds lighter than the minimum weight requirement.

Penske warded off a Donohue disqualification, but the rules were changed ahead of the 1968 season.

The road ahead Even before this mess, the pristine nature of Team Penske had been questioned this season.

Joey Logano was caught wearing an aerodynamic-deflecting glove in qualifying for the second NASCAR race of the season; he won't address if he wore the same illegal glove one week earlier when he put a Penske car on the pole for the Daytona 500.

Penske says he comes down hard on his drivers, who he says are supposed to be the team leaders, but there's some institutional horseplay happening right under his nose by his very own employees. They are sully his name in the process.

When Penske closed on the purchase of Indianapolis Motor Speedway in early 2020, it was a legacy buy for him.

The speedway was a crown jewel he plans to pass down through his family and is meant to be the defining asset in his multibillion-dollar empire.

Now rival team owners are criticizing his slow marketing spending (even though he kept them all afloat during the pandemic) and the difficulty in hammering out a charter agreement for team ownership. Michael Andretti even publicly called for Penske to sell IndyCar if he won't increase his investments.

Now there's a cheating scandal in which Penske's own people are offering implausible explanations and in doing so staining his name. □